



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
March 29, 2007

Contact: Eileen Force
(414)286-8504

Barrett: “How many more millions of taxpayer dollars will be wasted before Milwaukee can stop paying fired cops?”

MILWAUKEE – As Steven J. Lelinski was sentenced to 21 years in prison this morning, Mayor Tom Barrett continues to express outrage as Milwaukee taxpayers are forced to keep paying officers fired from the Milwaukee Police Department, including those who are charged with a crime.

Even though Lelinski will be taken off the payroll today, his pay while suspended cost taxpayers \$28,914.20. Lelinski’s pay while challenging his termination was an additional \$36,379.30 as of March 10, 2007. Neither total includes fringe benefits, which Lelinski was eligible to receive on the payroll. Lelinski will still receive two more paychecks.

“It’s absurd,” said Mayor Barrett. “We are heading into the summer months – a time when I am putting every available resource into the Police Department to make Milwaukee safer. Yet every month I watch thousands and thousands of dollars leave city coffers to pay people who have been fired from their jobs and charged with crimes.”

From 1990 through 2006, Milwaukee taxpayers shelled out \$3.8 million in pay and fringe benefits to ex-police officers who have been fired, including those charged with a crime. Benefits include everything from uniform allowances and weapon certification pay to sick leave, vacation, health care and pension contributions.

Barrett continued, “Milwaukee is the only city in the nation where taxpayers are forced to pay people who have been fired from their jobs and charged with crimes – enough is enough. There is no logical reason in any corner of this State why this should continue. I hope that the Legislature sees fit to do right by our taxpayers and end this ridiculous practice.”